

Date: 21st July 2026
Our ref: FOI/26/017278/X

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/26/017278/X

I write in connection with your request for information dated 21/07/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am submitting a request for records related to the investigation, arrest, and prosecution of [REDACTED] in connection with offenses involving the creation, distribution, and production of child sexual abuse material, including AI-generated child sexual abuse images.

I am specifically requesting:

1. Body-Worn Camera (BWC) footage of officers involved in:

Arrest, detention, transport, and booking of [REDACTED].

Initial contact between law enforcement officers and [REDACTED].

Execution of search warrants at [REDACTED] residence or any associated locations.

Collection and preservation of physical, forensic, documentary, and digital evidence.

Recovery and forensic examination of computers, mobile phones, tablets, cameras, electronic storage devices, internet communications, cloud storage accounts, AI software, text messages, emails, social media accounts, photographs, videos, financial transaction records, and any other digital evidence connected to the investigation.

Interviews and investigative activities involving [REDACTED] and other involved individuals.

Contact with witnesses, reporting parties, digital forensic personnel, and any assisting agencies.

Coordination between investigating officers, digital forensic specialists, prosecutors, the [REDACTED] and any assisting law enforcement agencies.

Any additional law enforcement response connected to this investigation.

2. Body-worn camera footage, dash camera footage, surveillance footage, photographs, audio recordings, dispatch/CAD recordings, radio traffic, recorded interviews, search warrant execution recordings, digital forensic recordings, and any other video or audio evidence associated with this case.

3. Complete incident reports, investigative reports, arrest reports, supplemental reports, probable cause affidavits, search warrants, search warrant returns, evidence logs, witness statements, forensic reports, digital forensic examination reports, dispatch/CAD records, booking records, custody records, photographs, digital evidence inventories, officer narratives, charging documents, court filings maintained by your agency, and all related documentation concerning this case.

Subject of Incident: [REDACTED].

Incident Date: July 3, 2023 (initial criminal proceedings and charges).

Sentenced Date: October 28, 2024.

Location: Bolton, Greater Manchester, England, United Kingdom.

Arresting/Investigating Agency: Greater Manchester Police.

Offenses: Distributing Indecent Photographs of Children, Publishing an Obscene Article, Intentionally Encouraging or Assisting the Rape of a Child Under the Age of 13, Attempting to Cause a Child Under 16 to Engage in Sexual Activity, Making Indecent Photographs of Children, Possessing Prohibited Images of Children, and any other related offenses arising from the investigation.

Incident Description:

This request concerns the investigation involving [REDACTED], who was prosecuted following an investigation into the creation, production, and distribution of child sexual abuse material, including AI-generated and digitally manipulated images of children. According to publicly released information, investigators determined that [REDACTED] used artificial intelligence and digital image manipulation technology to create child sexual abuse images, including material produced at the request of online clients who supplied images for manipulation. Authorities also alleged that he distributed indecent images of children, made indecent photographs of children, possessed prohibited images of children, encouraged or assisted the rape of children under the age of 13, and attempted to cause a child under the age of 16 to engage in sexual activity. [REDACTED] pleaded guilty to multiple offenses during proceedings in 2023 and 2024 and was sentenced on October 28, 2024, to 18 years' imprisonment with an additional six years on extended licence. He was also made subject to an indefinite Sexual Harm Prevention Order and sex offender notification requirements. This request seeks all records documenting the investigation, digital forensic examinations, execution of search warrants, seizure of electronic devices, arrest, detention, transport, booking, interviews, evidence collection, and all other law enforcement actions associated with this case.

Please provide all available records referenced above. If electronic delivery is available, I would appreciate receiving the records and footage via email or a secure file-sharing platform.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information. I can confirm the information requested is held by GMP. However, I am not obliged to provide the information requested as exemptions apply.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires GMP, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The request has been exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 30(1) – Investigations and Proceedings Conducted by Public Authorities

Section 38(1) - Health and Safety

Section 40(2) - Personal Information

Section 30(1) is a class based qualified exemption; there is a requirement to carry out a public interest test, which can be seen below.

Section 38(1) is a prejudice based qualified exemption; there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused in disclosing such information as well as carrying out a public interest test, which can be seen below.

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption; there is no right to the information under the FOI Act. A public interest test is not relevant to absolute exemptions, therefore no public interest test is required.

The requested information has been exempted from disclosure under Section 40(2) Personal Information – this information constitutes personal data of an identifiable living individual, and to disclose this information would breach the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Section 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and means data that relates to an individual who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

Harm as per Section 38

This Act provides the public with a general right of access to recorded information held by public authorities. However, information disclosed under this Act is effectively released into the public domain, or to the 'wider world', and not only to the person making the request.

To disclose the information that you have requested which may not already be in the public domain would undoubtedly have an impact on the health and safety of the family members of the victims and the offender. Such information being disclosed could resurface these traumatic experiences and cause the families to again revisit this terrible period of their lives.

Protecting the safety of the public is of paramount importance to GMP and information that would compromise such health and safety would not be disclosed within a response to a Freedom of Information request.

Section 30 - Factors Favouring Disclosure

To disclose the exempt information into the public domain, would show GMP's accountability, and satisfy the public that the investigations were being conducted correctly. It would also show GMP's use of public funds in continuing to investigate this crime.

Section 30 - Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, the disclosure sets a precedent as to how GMP responds over such questions which may inhibit the ability to prevent and detect crime in the future, as individuals may well be less inclined to co-operate with the police if they were aware that the information they provide, or is held by GMP would likely be disclosed to the world in circumstances sitting outside the criminal justice process.

Section 38 - Factors favouring disclosure

There may be occasions when it is appropriate to disclose information that would have an impact on the health and safety of an individual or the public in general. It could raise awareness in relation to this investigation and encourage the public to come forward with any new information that could assist police investigations.

There are, however, more general arguments that must be considered such as openness and transparency, which would lead to a more informed public.

Section 38 - Factors favouring non-disclosure

Although some information may or may not already be in the public domain that relates to the investigation. Due to the nature of the crimes committed, and that disclosure under FOI is disclosure to the world at large with no specific controls, which is likely to cause an individual mental and physical harm (for example the families of the victims and offender). Disclosure could also cause unwanted contact from those interested in this case at a time when individuals involved seek to progress with their lives without further unwanted attention.

Balancing test

When balancing the public interest Greater Manchester Police has to consider whether the information should be released into the public domain. Arguments need to be weighed against each other.

The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be openness. This needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure which is concerns for the health and safety, both mental and physical, of families and friends of the victims and the offender.

Having considered all the factors for and against disclosure it is my belief that in this case, the reason against disclosure outweighs the reason for disclosure and so the decision at this time to maintain the above exemptions and withhold the information from disclosure.

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice.

Further information

Please see below some links for relevant information which is available in the public domain.

[Man who created indecent images using AI-enabled technology sentenced to 24 years | Greater Manchester Police](#)

[Man pleads guilty to creating computer-generated indecent images in landmark case for GMP | Greater Manchester Police](#)
[College of Policing - Evolution of AI in child sexual abuse material](#)

[Man who created computer-generated child sex abuse images convicted | The Crown Prosecution Service](#)

[The terrifying world of the 'shy and lonely' young man who hid his utterly depraved true identity - Manchester Evening News](#)